

Iowa Dental Board Report - April 5, 2019

The Iowa Dental Board public meeting was held on April 5. The meeting was attended by the Iowa Dental Association staff and legal advisors, the Iowa Dental Hygiene association and lobbyist, the Iowa Department of Public Health, and the University of Iowa College of Medicine representative.

Chairman Dr. Steve Bradley's term on the board has ended. His service and leadership were acknowledged by everyone present. Two new board members, Dr. Lisa Holst and Dr. Greg Ceraso, have been selected. They will serve on the board at the next meeting.

The IDA addressed the board about teledentistry. The IDA is concerned that the dentist involved in a teledentistry interaction be in close proximity to the patient. Preferably, the dentist should be in Iowa so the dental interaction will be similar to dental philosophy in Iowa. The dental board should have the ability to regulate the dentist in a teledentistry situation.

The IDA spoke on behalf of oral surgeons regarding drugs used in deep sedation and general anesthesia. They requested that excluded medications not be listed in the rules and regulations.

There was lengthy discussion about the PMP (Prescription Monitoring Program) and the requirement to check the PMP within 48 hours prior to prescribing a controlled substance. The possibility of misunderstanding the language was concerning to the board.

Of special interest to all dentists and dental assistants is the radiographic qualification of dental assistants. Registered dental assistant current renewal cards identify dental assistants with "qualification in dental radiography" as "QDA". However, registered dental assistant current renewal cards without radiography qualifications are simply identified as "RDA". There have been multiple violations involving dental assistants without radiographic qualifications taking radiographs. The board has sanctioned the dentist and the dental assistant when the dental assistant takes radiographs with radiography qualifications.

The board reminded licensees that study models and casts must be retained as part of the patient's record for six years. As an alternative the models and casts may be given to the patient after one year.

There are numerous cases of nonlicensed individuals and businesses selling and administering whitening treatment. Whitening treatment is considered a dental treatment and must be provided by a licensed dentist or hygienist in a dental setting. The board does not have the authority to regulate the whitening businesses. The board can only send a letter explaining the Iowa code involving whitening. However the board can refer the matter to a county attorney for action by the county attorney.

As always please consider attending the dental board meetings. Comments are appreciated by the board. Licensee comments are given serious consideration by the board

The next board meeting will be June 7, 2019

Dr. Stephen R. Thies
Legislative chair
Iowa Academy of General Dentistry